

# Morgarten – beauty and mystery

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**Historians like to argue about what exactly happened between the Confederates and the Habsburgs at the Battle of Morgarten in November 1315. But when you walk around this beautiful place, you probably won't really care.**





↑ The impressive Morgarten Monument was inaugurated in 1908.

Morgarten isn't just another "lovely place", the like of which you can find all over Switzerland. Morgarten is unique. Here, the beauty of the Ägeri Valley combines with the mystery of what happened here. Some might call it a "place of power". In any case, hardly anyone could fail to be impressed by Morgarten. After all, this landscape has a unique connection with emotions, traditions and stories that have shaped Switzerland's development and self-image.

It is said that here at the Figlenfluh, a path between a steep slope and a swamp, the Confederates hurled boulders and tree trunks at the Habsburgs approaching from Zug. Duke Leopold I and his men were forced to retreat. What exactly happened during this unfriendly encounter – whether it was a real battle or something a bit less dramatic – is still the subject of debate. The historical sources leave plenty of room for speculation. In any case, a hike through the landscape is more fun than this perennial scholarly debate. Tread this ground yourself and you'll be captivated, no matter your interpretation of the history.

← Graceful and gentle: the Ägeri Valley.



↑ From the platform, you can enjoy views of the lake and mountains.

The hike through Morgarten begins in the Canton of Schwyz at the parish church in Sattel. From here, the well-signposted Morgarten Trail takes you across the cantonal border and into the Ägeri Valley to the Morgarten Monument, which is located around two kilometres north of the historic site. You can complete the hike in an hour and a half walking at a brisk pace. However, it's worth allowing a little more time. You'll want to enjoy the wonderful observation points and barbecue areas along the way, and there are also some interesting information stations that bring the protagonists of the Morgarten story to life through audio dramas. You'll get to know the Duke as he discusses the deployment with his loyal men at Zug Castle; the court jester Kuony, who raises a simple question that turns out to be exactly the right one; the knight Heinrich von Hünenberg, who betrays the Habsburgs; and, of course, Landammann Werner Stauffacher.

### The valley and the deep blue lake

The route begins on a small tarmac road with little traffic and climbs slowly and steadily uphill in hairpin bends. Along the way, you might come across a flock of free-roaming sheep gambolling on the sunny slopes. Soon you will reach the top, where the Bäsebeiz Figlen mountain hut and tavern is located. This is where the view of the Ägeri Valley, with its deep blue lake, opens up for the first time. To the right is the 1,244-metre-high Morgartenberg, a summit with panoramic views that is well



↑ The village of Morgarten is right by the lake.

worth a visit. For now, however, our route takes us left and up, through meadows and sparse forest, past some beautiful observation points and towards Schornen, which is not only the scene of the famous historical events, but also the site of the battle chapel, the Morgarten Trail information centre and the Letziturm tower. The tower is the striking remains of a medieval dam that is no longer visible today, but was maintained and used until the 18<sup>th</sup> century. After the tower, the route takes you along quiet paths past individual farms and lots of animals towards Oberägeri, before finally reaching the Morgarten Monument. This imposing structure, inaugurated in 1908, may not be to everyone's taste, but the view from up here is magnificent, and there are also places to sit and have a bite to eat.

From here, you can take the bus back to either Sattel or Oberägeri. If you want to keep hiking, you can continue on to the Ägeri Valley Panorama Trail. This trail high above the lake takes you through forests, meadows and pastures and reveals a landscape that has nothing martial about it, at least not for the 21<sup>st</sup> century observer. With the tranquil lake at your feet, your gaze will wander far into the countryside and towards the mountains. All the fuss about what really happened here in 1315 could hardly feel further away.



**Morgarten's history**  
zug-tourismus.ch/  
en/morgarten-  
geschichte

## T i p s



### 17 The Morgarten circuit by bike

Explore the area around Zug, Ägeri and Sattel by bike. The Morgarten circuit includes a visit to the Rothenthurmer Moor national nature reserve and the magical Lorzentobel, with its industrial monuments and the Höllgrotten caves. The route covers 70 kilometres and 1,300 metres in altitude, and is all about discovering this magnificent piece of unspoilt Switzerland.



zug-tourismus.ch/en/  
morgarten-runde



### 18 Naas-Sod campsite

This small but charming campsite is located opposite Morgarten on the western shore of Lake Ägeri. Here, you can enjoy the foothills of the Alps and soak up the beautiful natural surroundings. The surrounding area has a brilliant network of hiking and cycling trails – ideal for a relaxing or active holiday!



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campsites